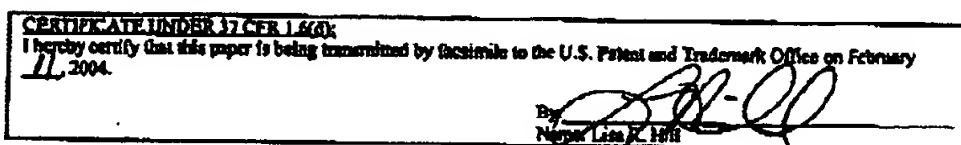


S/N 09/494751

PATENTIN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Smith Examiner: P. Do
Serial No.: 09/494751 Group Art Unit: 1641
Filed: January 31, 2000 Docket No.: 07500.0393USWO
Title: ASSAY FOR THE RECEPTOR AUTOANTIBODIES

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:


In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), it is respectfully requested that a 3-month extension of time be granted in which to respond to the outstanding Office Action mailed August 12, 2003, said period of response being extended from November 12, 2003 to February 12, 2004.

Our check in the amount of \$950.00 is enclosed to cover the required extension fee for a large entity.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD
P. O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 371-5265

Date: 2/11/04

By: 
John J. Presens
Reg. No. 33,112